

Message

From: Hanchett, James (DPH) [/O=COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS/OU=MASSMAIL-01/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=JAMES.HANCHETT]
Sent: 8/22/2011 3:06:28 PM
To: Kocot, Peter (HOU) [/O=COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=Peter.Kocot.HOU]
Subject: Amherst Lab Closure

Hi Peter,

I am asking for your assistance in keeping the Department of Public Health Drug Laboratory open at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. We understand the fiscal restraints the State is under, but this decision would not save money. It would just shift costs to the 108 cities and towns of Western Massachusetts. Samples would have to be transported by each area city or town to Jamaica Plain. This would increase the work load of the 11 chemists working there. Jamaica Plain's backlog of 3 months will increase to 6 months. This would cause an undo hardship for the judicial system of Massachusetts. Drug results for trial will be delayed and there will be a shortage of chemists to testify in court as required by the Melendez-Diaz Decision. Any assistance you could give us would be greatly appreciated. Here is the Fiscal year 2011 data.

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Thanks,

Jim Hanchett
Amherst Drug Lab
Room N251 Morrill I
637 North Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01003
Phone 413-545-2607
Fax 413-545-2608
Cell [REDACTED]